

The John Byrne Band

The John Byrne Band is led by Dublin native and Philadelphia-based John Byrne. Their debut album, *After the Wake*, was released to critical acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic in 2011. With influences ranging from Tom Waits to Planxty, John's songwriting honors and expands upon the musical and lyrical traditions of his native and adopted homes. John and the band followed up *After the Wake* in early 2013 with an album of Celtic and American traditional tunes. The album, *Celtic/Folk*, pushed the band on to the FolkDJ Charts, reaching number 36 in May 2015. Their third release, another collection of John Byrne originals, entitled "*The Immigrant and the Orphan*", was released in Sept 2015. The album, once again, draws heavily on John's love of Americana and Celtic Folk music and with the support of DJs around the country entered the US FolkDJ Charts at number 40. Critics have called it "...a powerful, deeply moving work that will stay with you long after you have heard it" (*Michael Tearson-Sing Out*); "*The Vibe of it (The Immigrant and the Orphan) is, at once, as rough as rock and as elegant as a calm ocean..each song on this album carries an honesty, integrity and quiet passion that will draw you into its world for years to come*" (*Terry Roland – No Depression*); "*If any element of Celtic, Americana or Indie-Folk is your thing, then this album is an absolute yes*" (*Beehive Candy*); "*It's a gorgeous, nostalgic record filled with themes of loss, hope, history and lost loves; everything that tugs at your soul and spills your blood and guts...The Immigrant and the Orphan scorches the earth and emerges tough as nails*" (*Jane Roser – That Music Mag*)

The album was released to a sold-out crowd at the storied World Café Live in Philadelphia and 2 weeks later to a sold-out crowd at the Mercantile in Dublin, Ireland. John has toured with or opened up for acts as diverse as The Hothouse Flowers, Ian Gillan (of Deep Purple), Gaelic Storm, Murder by Death, Finbar Furey, Luka Bloom, The Saw Doctors, The Solas, Sharon Shannon, The Young Dubliners and The Greencards.

In 2017, John returned to his Irish roots, recording an album with his father, brother and other noted musicians. The album, "*John J.Byrne and the Twangmen*" consisted of old Dublin Street songs along with some American/Canadian folk tunes, with John's Dad taking the vocals. Special appearances by Andy Keenan (Amos Lee, Jennifer Nettles) and Robbie Malone (Lir, David Gray) along with members of the Irish band Home Brew helped get the attention of the Irish National Archives, who almost immediately added the album to their collection of folk recordings.

Both as a solo/acoustic act, and a full 6-piece band, John logs in over 150 shows per year, building a loyal and devoted following. His next record, another collection of John Byrne originals, is scheduled for release in 2019.

For up to date info and dates, go to www.johnbyrneband.com

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What the Critics are Saying about the Immigrant and the Orphan

"..a powerful, deeply moving work that will stay with you long after you have heard it" Sing Out

"The Vibe of it (The Immigrant and the Orphan) is, at once, as rough as rock and as elegant as a calm ocean..each song on this album carries an honesty, integrity and quiet passion that will draw you into its world for years to come" Terry Roland – No Depression

"If any element of Celtic, Americana or Indie-Folk is your thing, then this album (The Immigrant and the Orphan) is an absolute yes" Beehive Candy

"It's a gorgeous, nostalgic record filled with themes of loss, hope, history and lost loves; everything that tugs at your soul and spills your blood and guts...The Immigrant and the Orphan scorches the earth and emerges tough as nails" Jane Roser – That Music Mag

"Up and coming Trad star hits the sweet spot... beautifully played... its Byrne's natural vocal delivery that makes the album stand out from the crowd" Hot Press (Ireland)

.....about John Byrne Band's earlier work

"John Byrne's After The Wake is the sort of album that an artist spends their entire career trying to create.... nothing short of a brilliant collection" - Wildy's World

"One of the few musical artists today who truly manage to be traditional and modern at the same time." Philadelphia Inquirer

"He's good, period, with material that's edgy yet accessible in a Luka Bloom meets Bob Dylan kind of way." Philadelphia Daily News

"After the Wake is the perfect combination of Celtic and American folk music."

Record-Journal Newspaper

"Amazing tales of life and semi-autobiographical tunes... You'll want to listen over and over again."

Reviewer Magazine

Byrne's songs are rich with the sounds and themes of Irish tradition, one that survives in a modern world... full of "raw strength"... an impressive work throughout... puts me in mind of an Irish Alejandro Escovedo"

Sing Out Magazine

For "fans of Celtic music, Bob Dylan, Steve Earle, Lucinda Williams and other such lyrically expansive folks." Sun Herald

SHORT BIO

John Byrne's latest release, "The Immigrant and the Orphan" has been called "a gorgeous, nostalgic....everything that tugs at your soul and spills your blood and guts" (That Music Mag) and a "powerful, deeply moving work that will stay with you long after you have heard it" (Sing Out)

Following up 2011's After the Wake and 2013's Celtic Folk, it was released to a sold out World Café Live in Sept 2015 and a sold-out Mercantile in Dublin, Ireland. It entered the US FolkDJ Charts at number 40, peaking at number 36. Together 7-years, much of which has been spent touring the US and Ireland/UK., the John Byrne Band has been compared to

Steve Earl, Lucinda Williams, the Pogues Christy Moore and Tom Waits. Both as a solo/acoustic act, and a full 6-piece band, John logs in over 150 shows per year, building a loyal and devoted following. His next record, "The Rag and Bone Man", is scheduled for release in 2019.

"Edgy yet accessible in a Luka Bloom meets Bob Dylan kind of way." Philadelphia Daily News

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